

have a proper one executed and sent forward. if it is executed I will thank you to forward it to me as soon as possible if it is not finished I will be obliged to you to have it done immediately and sent to me. as the old Seal is not only nearly worn out but in my Opinion has been always a reproach to the genius of the State.

I am Sir

Yr. most Obt Servant

RICHD. D. SPAIGHT.

Abisha Thomas Esquire Agent for the State of No Carolina.

ABISHA THOMAS TO RICH[AR]D D[OBBS] SPAIGHT.³²

PHILADELPHIA 24th January 1793.

SIR

P. S. January 30th.

With regard to the Great Seal I am at a loss how to act. It is agreed on all hands that the Sketch transmitted by Governor Martin will not do. He authorized me to procure an artist to sketch something from it and to transmit the same to him for approbation. I did so, he disapproved and directed me to proceed no farther in the business untill farther orders—thus the matter rests. I send you a copy of the Governors sketch with his explanation. I wish I could send you the other but did not copy it perhaps Governor Martin has furnished you with it. howe I can nearly (perhaps precisely) explain it, the figures are Minerva in the act of introducing Ceres with her horn of plenty to Liberty who is seated on a pedestal holding in her right hand a book on which is inscribed the word "Constitution" in the back ground are introduced a pyramid denoting Strength and durability; and a pine tree which relates immediately to the produce of the State &c. the first is too complex to be executed on so small a Scale, besides say the men of science it is not conformable to the rules of Heraldry to quarter the Arms or the Seal of a single sovereign State. The Governor wished to have something expressive of Commerce and Agriculture introduced; this I think might be done in addition to the figures above named. He also authorized me to change the Motto from "*His Cresco*" to "*Hacc numera nostro.*"

With the utmost respect and attachment

I remain Sir

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Sert.

ABISHA THOMAS.

³²From Letter Book of Governor Spaight. North Carolina Historical Commission collection.